

Amendment and Response under 37 C.F.R. 1.116

Applicant: Curtis Gregory Kelsay

Serial No.: 09/491,994

Filed: January 26, 2000

Docket No.: 10990356-2

Title: AN OPTICAL INTERLINK BETWEEN AN OPTICAL TRANSDUCER AND OPTICAL DATA PORT**REMARKS**

The following remarks are made in response to the Final Office Action mailed on February 12, 2004, in which claims 20-23, 25-29, 33-39, and 41-50 were rejected. With this Amendment, claims 20-23, 25-29, 33-39, 41, 43, 44, and 50 have been cancelled without prejudice, and claims 42 and 48 have been amended to clarify Applicant's invention. Claims 42 and 45-49, therefore, remain pending in the application and are presented for reconsideration and allowance.

Telephonic Examiner Interview

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the courtesies extended to Applicant's representative, Scott A. Lund, during a telephonic interview conducted on April 8, 2004 during which Applicant's invention and the art of record was discussed. No agreement, however, was reached at that time.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102 and 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 20-23, 25-29, 33-39, and 41 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tsuji et al. U.S. Patent No. 5,796,890 in view of Pressler et al. U.S. Patent No. 6,005,700, Sedlmayr U.S. Patent No. 6,034,818, and Kawakami et al. U.S. Patent No. 5,848,203.

With this Amendment, claims 20-23, 25-29, 33-39, and 41 have been cancelled without prejudice. The rejection of claims 20-23, 25-29, 33-39, and 41 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), therefore, is rendered moot.

Claims 42, 48, and 49 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Pressler et al. Claims 43-45 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pressler et al. in view of Tsuji et al. Claim 46 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pressler et al. in view of Tsuji et al., and further in view of Sedlmayr. Claim 47 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pressler et al. in view of Tsuji et al. and Sedlmayr, and further in view of Kawakami et al. Claim 50 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pressler et al.

With this Amendment, independent claim 42 has been amended to clarify that the apparatus is a printer including a housing, a print engine disposed within the housing, a

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printed circuit assembly disposed within the housing, a direct wire port electrically coupled to the printed circuit assembly, an optical transducer electrically coupled to the printed circuit assembly and configured to transmit and receive information optically, an optical data port formed in the housing, and a light pipe assembly optically coupling and providing bi-directional communication between the optical transducer and the optical data port.

With respect to the Tsuji et al., Pressler et al., Sedlmayr, and Kawakami et al. patents, Applicant submits that none of these patents, individually or in combination, teach or suggest a printer, as claimed in independent claim 42, including a housing, a print engine disposed within the housing, a printed circuit assembly disposed within the housing, a direct wire port electrically coupled to the printed circuit assembly, an optical transducer electrically coupled to the printed circuit assembly and configured to transmit and receive information optically, an optical data port formed in the housing, and a light pipe assembly optically coupling and providing bi-directional communication between the optical transducer and the optical data port.

In view of the above, Applicant submits that independent claim 42 is patentably distinct from the Tsuji et al., Pressler et al., Sedlmayr, and Kawakami et al. patents and, therefore, is in a condition for allowance. Furthermore, as dependent claims 45-49 further define patentably distinct claim 42, Applicant submits that dependent claims 45-49 are also in a condition for allowance. Applicant, therefore, respectfully requests that the rejection of claims 42, 48, and 49 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) and claims 43-47 and 50 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) be reconsidered and withdrawn and that claims 42 and 45-49 be allowed.

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In view of the above, Applicant respectfully submits that pending claims 42 and 45-49 are all in a condition for allowance and requests reconsideration of the application and allowance of all pending claims.

Any inquiry regarding this Amendment and Response should be directed to either Gregg W. Wisdom at Telephone No. (360) 212-8052, Facsimile No. (360) 212-3060 or Scott A. Lund at Telephone No. (612) 573-2006, Facsimile No. (612) 573-2005. In addition, all correspondence should continue to be directed to the following address:

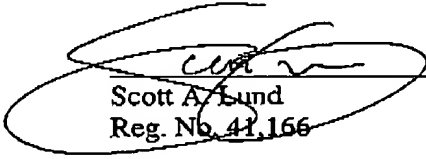
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CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this paper or papers, as described herein, are being facsimile transmitted to the United States Patent and Trademark Office, Fax No. (703) 872-9306 on this 12th day of April, 2004.


By _____
Name: Scott A. Lund